

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-35 were pending. Claims 21-35 were withdrawn. Claims 1-5 and 8-11 have been cancelled.

Resubmission of IDS and Supplemental IDS

Applicants submitted an IDS along with PTO form 1449 with the filing of the Application on May 30, 2001. Applicants also submitted a supplemental IDS along with PTO form 1449 on November 5, 2003. Neither initialed form 1449, indicating that the Examiner considered the references contained therein, was returned with the Office Action. Applicants herein re-submit the IDS and supplemental IDS, along with a copy of the original submissions, and respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the PTO form 1449 with the next Office Action.

Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshizawa (U.S. Patent 4,985,089). Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshizawa in view of Cole (U.S. Patent 5,452,164). Claims 6-7 and 12-19 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-5 and 8-11.

Applicants additionally respectfully point out that Claim 6, from which Claims 7 and 12-19 depend, is an independent claim. Thus, Claims 6-7 and 12-19 should have been allowed and not merely objected to.

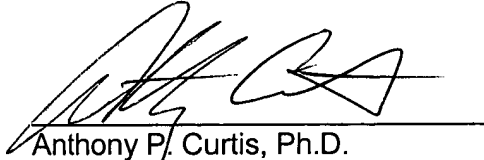
Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 6-7 and 12-19 are in condition for allowance without necessitating amendment.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is

unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AP Curtis', written over a horizontal line.

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